AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a masking member comprising; the preparation of a green masking member by stretch molding a thermoplastic resin sheet, the size of said green masking member being determined considering the margin of contraction, and then heating and softening said green masking member to achieve the size and shape suitable for the part to be masked.

Claim 2 (original): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said heating and softening treatment is carried out at a temperature below that of the melting point of said thermoplastic resin sheet.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a thermoplastic resin into which a filler is mixed.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is a foamed thermoplastic resin sheet.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polyolefin group resin.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polystyrene group resin.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polymer alloy containing an amorphous thermoplastic resin and a crystalline thermoplastic resin.

Claim 8 (Original): A method for manufacturing a masking member in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said amorphous thermoplastic resin(s) is (are) of one or more kind(s) of resin(s) selected from a group consisting of polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin, polycarbonate, modified polyphenylene ether, polyphenylene ether, polysulfone, polyarylate, polyimide, polyetherimide, polyethersulfone, and polyamideimide, with said crystalline thermoplastic resin(s) being a polyolefin group resin and/or polyamide group resin.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with ~~Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein said stretch molding is achieved by vacuum and/or pressure forming.

Claim 10 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a thermoplastic resin into which a filler is mixed.

Claim 11 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is a foamed thermoplastic resin sheet.

Claim 12 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polyolefin group resin.

Claim 13 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polystyrene group resin.

Claim 14 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polymer alloy containing an amorphous thermoplastic resin and a crystalline thermoplastic resin.

Claim 15 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polyolefin group resin.

Claim 16 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polystyrene group resin.

Claim 17 (new): A method for the manufacturing of a masking member in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said thermoplastic resin sheet is made of a polymer alloy containing an amorphous thermoplastic resin and a crystalline thermoplastic resin.